

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, replace the paragraph starting at line 7, with the following new paragraph:

Although burners for controlling gas flow and flame generation in a cooking appliance have been known, a recent development that improves a flame spreading features within a controlled area so that the burner does not create a limited set of rings of heat application to a cooking utensil. For example, U.S. application serial No. 08/955,002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,299,436, discloses a multiple fingered burner that expands the heating zone without exposing the peripheral ports in the fingers to exposure from spills occurring above the cooking top. Nevertheless, while such an arrangement improves distribution of the flames within a cooking top area, such irregularly shaped burners often have difficulty, particularly when sealed to the cooking top and subjected to various flow rates of primary air, in maintaining appropriately sized flame kernels throughout the irregular pattern of kernels throughout the cooking top area.